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ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

International Health Congress.

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Read before the Kansas State Medical Society, at Atchison, May 4, 1894.

Preventive medicine is the medicine of the future. Sanitation is the key to preventive medicine. A large per cent. of the diseases of mankind are preventable, and some of them can be stamped out; others can be modified and the death rate lessened and human life prolonged. This is all within man's power, and it is his privilege and duty to do it. The promotion of public health like public morals, must begin in the home. The morals of a nation cannot be above the average intelligence of its citizens. The value of human life is measured by the same rule.

During the last century or two the average life of man has been increased because of the average intelligence of the human race in civilized nations being higher; but it has not reached its possible limit. The inventive genius of man and the increase in population of the human family have a tendency to place a lower estimate on human life in general, because of the law of supply and demand not being equal, the former being out of proportion to the latter.

It is stated in the Declaration of Independence of our nation that all men are created equal (by man is meant both sexes); that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just power from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it.

We are not of the abolishing kind, but we do believe in evolution, in advancement and improvement. It is the duty of the children to accept the good of the fathers, and to eliminate the useless and injurious. It is our duty to improve opportunities, to adapt ourselves to the age in which we live, and as a profession to accept the trust imposed upon us from the nature of our calling and prove our worth. In the language of General Caldwell, of Topeka, in his address at the commencement exercises of the Kansas Medical College, March 28, 1894:

"In no science do the discoveries of science give a greater hope of the amelioration of human suffering and the prolongation of human life than in the science of medicine. And if it be nobler to restore life than to destroy it; to relieve pain than to cause it; to avert suffering than to inflict it; then, surely, the doctor is nobler than the warrior."

To accomplish the object of this paper, the statesman must be enlisted; and to do this the facts must be presented to him that he may know the condition of the people, the cause and ravages of disease, and to what extent the causes of disease can be prevented and destroyed as shown by medical science, and then he will be ready to enact laws to consummate those ends.

Saving life and prolonging it is the first consideration for which governments are instituted, and the medical profession is largely responsible to governments for the means of doing this. Also for the health of the nation that life may be enjoyable. The

American Medical Association has been urging the Congress of the United States to add to the advisory board of the President (the Cabinet) a health commissioner. Said officer to be a physician, to inform and advise the government on all questions pertaining to public health and to the prevention of disease. To a body of medical men it seems strange that such gross carelessness should exist in an intelligent nation, and the only explanation is that the medical profession has failed to do its duty in this respect. But we feel that the day is not far distant when the profession will be represented by an officer in the Cabinet.

The means of rapid transit invented during, we may say, the last half of this century, makes all nations our neighbors. It requires but eighty days to go around the earth. The result is that the people of the earth are becoming one nation. Imaginary lines of separation are becoming lost sight of in commerce and society. There is such a commingling of languages and ideas intellectually and religiously that we are beginning to prove practically the "Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man."

We have an interest directly and indirectly in the whole human family, in every nation on earth because of its neighborly proximity if nothing more. The Greenlander to-day may be my neighbor next week. The resident of the sunny skies of Italy within a fortnight may become a resident of Kansas. The dark-skinned Spaniard, the dreamy Turk from Constantinople, where cholera is now prevalent and has its habitat; the almond-eyed Chinese and the native of Bombay and the Brazilian of revolutionary fame, may all be our neighbors before another moon. Since such is the case, we become directly interested in these people and nations. No nation on earth sets a greater value on human life than our own.

If it is known that some of our neighbors, other nations, do not set a proper value upon human life either by overt acts or by carelessness, we should not be made to suffer for their wrong-doing if it is within our power to prevent it. This should be done and can be, to a great extent by peaceable means—by legislation, by international law. The governments of the earth can be requested by act of our national legislature through the President, like the monetary congress was called, to appoint physician delegates to an international health congress, and a majority of these delegates can formulate a plan for the nations to adopt for the prevention of preventable diseases, and, in fact, for the proper sanitation of the habitable globe; and those laws can be carried out, enforced, the same as other laws protecting us from foreign and internecine strife, and with much greater saving of human life, suffering and property, than freedom from war. Our army and fleet of war vessels can be made doubly conservators of life and health. It is true that one nation cannot inaugurate and carry out all the requirements for the accomplishment of this end, but it can make a beginning; it can call attention to the necessity of the case; it can show the way in which it can be done, and enlist other nations in doing that which will preserve the life of its citizens, and that the coming man and nation is the one who preserves life, and not the one who destroys it. And with whom does this knowledge rest? Who should urge this upon the people, especially the law-makers? Who are the school teachers to tell it and urge it? Who in a great measure is responsible for the lax condition of laws governing in matters of health? The medical profession largely. It is not the purpose of this paper to formulate a definite plan of action, for we are not sufficiently acquainted with the law and all of the conditions existing in relation to national sanitation and quarantine laws; but to call the attention of our law makers to the necessity of protection; to the existing condition of things, and to have this Society voice its sentiment on the subject.

In looking over the weekly sanitary reports issued by the supervising surgeon general of the Marine Hospital Station, for the year 1892, the United States commissioner writes from Constantinople, December 26: "Cholera is continually spreading beyond the already mentioned localities. At Orfa, on the northeast of Aleppo, cholera is con-

tinually raging." The United States consul agent at Aleppo, Syria, reports that the Italian bark Simpatia sailed on December 7, from Alexandretta, Syria, where cholera still prevails, bound for the port of New York.

John J. Dix, of Austin, Texas, under date of February 17, 1891, writes to Hon. W. H. Creim, M. C.: "Our State, or the western part of it, is suffering greatly from ravages of that direful scourge of the human family, the smallpox, and you will see by a casual glance at the papers of the State (meaning the newspapers) as well as all those of the Southwestern States, that this infliction has been introduced into our country from the sister republic, Mexico. Every case, even to one developed in northwest Illinois, comes by our Mexican citizens or those from Mexico."

He asks that they be protected by national quarantine, stating that the present prevalence of the disease threatens to become epidemic, and, if it should, the horrors of the situation can better be imagined than described. He asks for a national law making vaccination compulsory, and that it is asserted that the presentation of a certificate of vaccination is indispensable in the empire of Prussia to consummate matrimony, and that all subjects of the German and Prussian empires give three or more years of their early lives to military service of their respective governments, and the first thing after passing the medical examination is the immediate vaccination of the party. This is the reason of the almost entire exemption of these nations from this pest of the human family.

This letter was referred to the supervising surgeon general, and he writes: "The epidemic fund from which all the expenses of like measures have previously been paid, is not available under the appropriation act now in force for use against smallpox, and no expense under the provision of the law for the ensuing year can be incurred until July 1, 1891."

This communication shows us the liability of our country to the epidemic, preventable disease of another nation, and no provision to meet it financially—a hopeless condition, indeed, and a dangerous one.

The United States sanitary inspector at Rio de Janeiro, under date of March 9, 1891, writes: "In spite of the rain and cooler weather the yellow fever has increased, and is increasing. The deaths reported for the week ending March 7, were 511—181 from yellow fever. For the week ending March 14, the number of deaths from yellow fever was 231, and the epidemic increasing."

The United States sanitary inspector at Cuba writes: "The mortality from smallpox is increasing, and to what extent it may continue to do so it is impossible to surmise after the astonishing license given to an infected vessel recently arrived from Spain."

The consul, in writing from Constantinople, August 19, says: "Cholera is spreading. Every day new villages are affected and cholera deaths are announced." In speaking of some cities of Asiatic Turkey, he says: "The sanitary condition of those places is always imperfect. In the Hedjas cholera exists always."

One of the mythical gods of ancient times earned renown by cleansing the stables that threatened to depopulate a city. He turned a river through them and washed them out, and the work of sanitation was complete. A greater man than he lived in modern times, who accomplished even a greater task, and he is forgotten in the city for which he did so much, except that those whose lives he saved may execrate his memory. Gen. Benj. Butler, possessing no knowledge of sanitary rules, knowing nothing of the sanitary laws that govern every physician, found a city buried in the filth of generations and left it a paradise as free from defilement as though man had never made it his habitat. Gen. Butler may not have possessed the professional knowledge claimed by all medical men, but he had energy, force of character, and the strong common sense that has been the heritage of so many men of New England.

New Orleans had capitulated, and the rebel army had sought safety in the interior of Louisiana. When the Federal troops entered the city the Confederate soldiers had

departed, but had left behind an ally far more dangerous than all the powder and bullets at the command of President Davis. What armies had failed to do was left for disease to accomplish. Three canals were presumed to carry off the filth of the city to a point where pumps emptied it into the lake. Gen. Butler found there "stenches so offensive and noxious as almost to take away the power of breathing. The surface of the canal and pond was covered with a thick growth of green vegetable scum, variegated with dead cats and dogs or the remains of dead mules on the banking, under the rays of the sun so hot that the thermometer showed 120°." The other canals were in the same condition. This trip along the canals led to an investigation which was conducted personally, as none of Gen. Butler's physicians had ever had any experience with the disease most to be dreaded—yellow fever. The city physician refused to act under his orders, so the sturdy man from New England was forced to act in the role of grand medical director. He secured all the authorities upon the peculiarities of the disease and hastily read up.

For one time cramming proved to be beneficial. Following his hasty course in medicine, Gen. Butler secured a map of the city showing the localities where yellow fever usually raged, the disease generally originating in the French market. To use his own language: "I rode around and examined the French market and a number of other localities, and I thought I detected why it raged in those spots—they were simply astonishingly filthy with rotting matter. In the French market the stall women were accustomed to drop on the floor around their stalls all the refuse made in cleaning their birds, meats and fish. Here it was trodden in and in. This had been going on for nearly a century. The fact that the disease flourished so much in the vicinity of decaying and putrid matter led me to the conclusion that this prolific cause of typhus and typhoid fevers must have something to do with 'el vomito.'"

New Orleans had no sewers, only drains, above ground, and these had not been cleaned for years. Gen. Butler reasoned that if he could get rid of the producing causes, yellow fever might be avoided. He immediately established a quarantine station seventy miles below the city, requiring vessels on which any kind of sickness was found to remain forty days, regardless of certificates, and where they came from infected ports, regardless of the health of the passengers or crew, they were detained the full forty days. Having closed the door he gave attention to the city itself. Two thousand men were set at work cleaning the drains and vaults; and the occupants of every house were compelled to thoroughly cleanse their premises within twenty-four hours after being served with notice. Buildings were whitewashed with lime, alum, and salt. Refuse was placed in proper receptacles and hauled off every day, and the receptacles disinfected with chloride of lime. The French market was cleansed of fourteen to twenty-five inches of decaying animal matter, bayonets being the persuaders to induce men to do this work. The city was clean for the first time in its history. The General had adopted the theory that yellow fever was not indigenous to the climate of New Orleans, and that its seeds had to be brought there. He proved the correctness of his theory, for the cases that afterward appeared were sporadic, and there were but two or three. In these cases the bodies were cremated, and the buildings and contents burned.

In 1853, under conditions similar to those found by Gen. Butler, there were 7,439 certified deaths from yellow fever out of a population of 30,000. In 1862, out of a population of over 60,000, there were but two deaths from the same disease. No comment is necessary.

In 1864, at Newbern, North Carolina, in the midst of a vast pine forest, one-half of the population died of yellow fever. An inspection showed that the town was encircled with the remains of camps of both armies. Newbern had been commanded by men who had been taught nothing of sanitary science, and the ditches, filled with human excrement, itself in decay, had never been

filled. When the exhalations became too noxious the troops were simply moved to new localities, and so on, until the country about became as dangerous to life as an Asiatic cholera center.

In Memphis, in 1876, I think, the black frost was depended upon to stop the dread plague invited by the carelessness of men. The city was one vast charnel-house, and the streets, alleys, lots and drains lent a great labyrinth of filth, inviting death to enter and do its work. The invitation was, as you well know, accepted. A nation came to the rescue of those who escaped, and acts of heroism were recorded that were made possible by gross negligence of intelligent men. The frosts came and the scourge disappeared. Then the living began the work that will prevent future generations from suffering as they did. The city was cleansed as thoroughly as Gen. Butler cleansed New Orleans. Sewers were built, pure water was freely supplied, and now Memphis may bid defiance to yellow fever or kindred plagues.

We extend invitations to cholera, yellow fever and smallpox to come among us and do their work. They accept the invitation, and then we ask the good people yet alive to meet in their churches and intercede with God to take away our visitors. Our invitations had been hearty and earnest, and our pleas for them to shorten their visit have been pitiful.

We should have met them with fire and water, with brute force in whose hands were placed implements of cleanliness, and then our prayers might have been offered in behalf of those who were more criminally negligent than we had been.

To cut a long story short, we find among other diseases cholera, yellow fever and smallpox are to a large extent preventable. That their home is known and the conditions favorable to their propagation, and also to their extinction, are equally well known. Their mortality is high, and, aside from the loss of life in an epidemic, the financial loss is greater than that of war. We find also the means of fighting and preventing the disease is inadequate, being that of quarantine by the various States and cities of the same State. The quarantine regulations are not uniform, and if they were it is impossible to keep out of our country all infected persons and goods. Quarantine cannot remove the cause of disease or destroy its habitat. This latter must be done by sanitation.

Quarantine cannot be done away with, for cases must be isolated and the spread of contagious disease prevented as far as possible in this way; but it bears a similar relation to preventing disease that the treatment of symptoms does in a given disease when we do not know the cause of the disease.

Sanitation has many advantages over quarantine:

First. It destroys many of the causes of disease.

Second. It saves more lives.

Third. It is looked upon more favorably by the people in general, for they can see the result and understand it.

Those of you who have had to do with quarantine in our own cities know the opposition with which you met, and the difficulties in isolating the scarlet fever and diphtheritic patient, and this opposition not only came from the laity, but sometimes the doctor in attendance claims that the disease, especially diphtheria, is not contagious.

Fourth. It markedly improves the appearance of the cities and country, and has a good effect upon the class of people needing such an example and instruction, and at the same time destroys the food of the filth disorder.

Fifth. The work can be carried on continuously and thus give employment to thousands of idle hands, and the Coxeyite and tramp would soon be an unknown quantity in our own land, and the unemployed of other nations could be fed and clothed to a large extent while engaged in doing good.

Sixth. Cleanliness tends to Godliness and contentment, and when food, clothing and shelter is added to health, the average man is content.

Seventh. It would solve to a great extent the question of what shall we do with the unemployed floating and vicious population,

by giving them no excuse for begging, and at the same time protect the innocent from insult, injury, and disease.

Eighth. Such sanitary laws, national and international, would be a paying investment aside from the protection afforded. The nations of the earth would be better, happier, more intelligent, healthier and richer because cleaner.

There is no comparison on the credit side of the financial ledger between health and sickness, morality and crime, cleanliness and filth, life and death.

Let the medical profession assert itself and show its worth by rising in its might and power as a teacher of healthful peace; a conservator of life, and an enemy of death, and teach man the principle of the Declaration of American Independence, and assist in solving an essentially vexed problem of our age, What shall we do with our fellow man?

In order to bring the matter before the public and the profession, I would suggest that the following plan be pursued, to be changed or amended as the requirements of the case may demand, viz: That the Society appoint a committee with power to act, consisting of the Secretary of the State Board of Health, and the Corresponding Secretary of the State Society, to communicate with the secretaries of the other State boards of health and the secretaries of the other State medical societies, asking them to bring before their respective bodies, and to make such suggestions as they may see proper, and to appoint a like committee to that of ours to outline a plan of procedure; and also to bring the matter before their respective State and national legislatures, and for these committees to report their action to their respective State societies for their final action in the matter.

IN fistulous openings which appear in a short time after an operation, and having used silk ligatures, search for an "unencysted" ligature. Moral—use catgut for subcutaneous ligatures.

A New Treatment of Hydrocele.

Charlotte Medical Journal.

Dr. J. Neumann (*Weiner Med. Press*) describes a method of treating hydrocele which he has employed successfully in six cases. After careful disinfection a trocar is introduced into the tumor. While the serous fluid is flowing out it is pushed up still higher, left in the sac, and a slightly compressed bandage applied. This is allowed to lie undisturbed for about two days. In all of his cases there followed adhesions of the two layers of the sac without suppuration or inflammation. The time of treatment lasted from seven to nine days. After removal of the canula, the after treatment consisted only of cooling applications as of lead water to the scrotal skin, which will still be reddened and somewhat swollen. The advantages of this method are its simplicity, the shorter duration of treatment, less pain, and assurance against subsequent inflammation. He explains its action by the alteration in the efflux of the fluid, and the pressure of the canula, which easily gives rise to an emigration of leucocytes which, decomposing, give rise to a fibrinogenous ferment which induces coagulation in the serum consequently produced. The slight compression of the bandage, and the draining away of the surplus serum, lead to adhesion of the layers of the serous membrane, so that adhession without inflammation occurs. Strict asepsis is necessary.

DR. SENN says that in removing tubercular masses surgeons make the mistake in not extending the incision far enough to include all possible infected tissues—also, in tubercular osseo-myelitis, sufficient bone is not removed; if this were done it would prevent many of the future recurrences. The germ, he says, will remain the scar tissues for years, ready on the slightest provocation to resume active work, although possibly in a milder or modified form.

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Topeka, Kansas, Saturday, June 2, 1894.

"Strong Medicine."

Members of the laity seem in many localities to have a peculiar aversion to what they call "strong medicine." If asked what they consider strong medicine, they cannot very readily say, but seem to imagine that anything which has a very strong taste or is given in small doses must be strong medcine. These same individuals will of their own accord take a ball of blue mass or a large dose of turpentine on the slightest provocation. Secrecy in prescription writing seems to us justified for this reason if no other.

A physician is often subjected to the severest blame by some former patient, who imagines he has been permanently injured by strong medicine. Recently we were obliged to listen to the complaint of one of these people. He said: "Why, doctor, he just burned my stomach out with strong medicine. What do you suppose he gave me? It was carbolic acid and tr. iodine. I will show you the bottle if you don't believe it." In this case the label on the bottle was the cause of all the trouble. Had the man been ignorant of the remedy he was taking he would not only have been friendly to the physician, but would doubtless have been free from an imaginary ill, with which he tortures himself and everyone else.

DR. BAYARD HOLMES sits down awfu. hard on the Chicago City Board of Health: "The present spreading of the smallpox might have been avoided. It has fumigated infected places and smallpox has sprung out of the fumigation with fresh violence. Quarantine has only been an admonition—the inmates have gone their several ways to distribute the seeds of disease at random. No resident physician and only one nurse to twenty-five patients at the smallpox hospital. Eighteen patients have been found dead at home. The whole miserable history of the present recurrence of smallpox is a story of outrageous neglect of public health and human life."

ANOTHER unqualified doctor was recently arrested and fined in Topeka. It is well enough to find out if the law we have is good for anything, for it is possible we may never get a better one. We propose to try, however.

BIDIGITAL is a new word, goes hand in hand with bimanual, meaning with the tip of a finger of each hand—a valuable method in examination of tumors.

THERE is a chance for someone to discover a cure for the methylbenzonethoxyethyletetrahydrophyridinecarboxylate habit.

Tuberculin in the Food of Consumptive Patients.

Medical Review.

The allegation has been made that the heat used in cooking tuberculous meat and in boiling or Pasteurizing milk does away with every element of danger by killing the microbes and their spores. Prof. James Law, of Cornell University, has stated, however, in a recent number of the *Cornell Bulletin*, that the cooked meat and milk are still dangerous because of the chemical poisons secreted by the microbes, especially those in the tuberculin. Sterilization is not a restoration to a non-poisonous condition, for, though the possibility of inoculation is removed, the product is not rendered innocuous. The sterilization of Koch's tuberculin has not by any means rendered it safe and harmless. On the contrary, it invariably intensifies any existing tuberculous process, developing fever and general constitutional disorder. Hence, whenever tuberculin is present in meat or milk it causes these foods to affect consumptive patients in the same manner. In Prof. Law's experience with tuberculosis he has observed cases in which invalids drinking the milk of tuberculous cows suffered very obviously, but as soon as such milk was withheld there was a marked improvement. He noticed that calves sucking consumptive cows did badly and proved unthrifty, though they took all the milk furnished by their respective nurses, but when weaned and fed on solid food, they thrived much better. He has followed such calves until they grew up and were slaughtered, and found in the post-mortem examinations that they bore old calcified tubercles pointing back to the time when they had sucked the diseased and poisonous milk. K. Yamagiva successfully inoculated guinea pigs with tuberculosis and afterward administered tuberculin, and found that it so greatly hastened the onset of general tuberculosis that after a week tuberculosis centers were fonnd in the lymphatic glands, spleen, liver and lungs. Human beings are much more susceptible than the guinea pig to the tuberculin poisons. It may be safely held as proved by analogy, observation and experiment that the soluble poisons of tuberculosis invariably operate by exaggerating any existing tuberculous process, and that blood and other animal fluids becoming charged with such poisons uniformly tend to further endanger the health and life of any patient who may consume them while suffering from tuberculosis. The germ, especially in the tubercle of this disease, which might have remained comparatively dormant and harmless in the absence of the poisoned meat and milk, is by these stimulated to a more deadly energy.

Decision Against Compulsory Vaccination.

Medical Record.

A short time ago we referred to the case of two Brooklyn expressmen who were practically imprisoned because they refused to be vaccinated. They were released on a writ of habeas corpus. Justice Gaynor subsequently rendered a decision adverse to the board of health. His decision is important, and we quote it in part. He says: "If the commissioner had the power to imprison an individual for refusing to submit to vaccination, I see no reason why he could not also imprison one for refusing to swallow some dose. But the legislature has conferred no such power upon him, if, indeed, it has the power to do the like. Chapter 661 of the laws of 1893 (section 24), empowers all health boards to 'require the isolation of all persons and things infected with or exposed' to contagious or infectious diseases. There is no claim that the petitioners are infected, or have been actually exposed to infection. But even if they were subjects for isolation by reason of infection or exposure thereto, they could only be detained while such, and not indefinitely until they yielded their bodies to vaccination. The same act directs health boards to provide vaccine virus, 'and at all times provide thorough and safe vaccination for all per-

sons in need of the same.' This falls far short of authorizing the imprisonment of those who refuse to be vaccinated. . . . If the legislature desired to make vaccination compulsory it would have so enacted.

"My attention is also called to section 5 of title 12 of the charter of Brooklyn, which is that in the presence of great and imminent peril of the public health, it shall be the duty of the commissioner of health 'to take such measures, and do and cause to be done such acts, and make such expenditures beyond those duly estimated for and provided, for the preservation of the public health from such impending pestilence, as he may in good faith declare the public safety and health to demand, and the mayor of said city and the president of the medical society of Kings county shall also in writing approve.

"This does not mean that the commissioner may take unlawful measures or do unlawful acts. It must be interpreted in the light of the constitution and settled legal principles and safeguards. It does not confer on the commissioner the right to imprison any more than to take life.

"I need not discuss here the right to isolate or quarantine in times of pestilence. That right grows out of the overwhelming necessity of the case and has its limitations. It is not being exercised here, for the petitioners are not being held in isolation as subjects of danger to the community, to be released when their bodies are no longer sources of infection, but they are being forcibly confined because they refuse to submit to vaccination and until they do submit thereto. The petitioners are discharged."

Coffee vs. Digestion.

Modern Medicine.

Prof. Schutz-Schutzenstein, an eminent German scientist, has recently completed some interesting experiments in relation to the effect of tea and coffee on gastric digestion. He found that an artificial gastric juice was able, in eight hours, to digest 94 per cent. of coagulated egg albumen. When tea was added, other conditions remaining the same, only 66 per cent., or about two-thirds as much, of the albumen was digested. This result was believed by the professor to be due to the influence of the tannin upon the albumen. The effect was found to be less in proportion as the infusion of coffee or tea was weaker, and the conclusion was expressed by the experimenter that the deleterious influence of these common beverages is due, not to the thein and caffein which they contain, but to the constituent tannin, the suggestion being made that an infusion made by pouring boiling water upon the tea or coffee and allowing it to stand for a few moments, instead of boiling for some time, is less deleterious in consequence of the extraction of a smaller quantity of tannin.

This conclusion is doubtless correct, but it is equally true that an infusion thus made contains a smaller amount of thein or caffein. These substances are less easily soluble in water than tannin, and consequently the less injurious effect of the lighter infusions is not due to the fact that they contain less tannin, but that they contain less of all the poisonous properties contained in the tea leaf and the coffee berry.

ROKITANSKY makes the statement that tuberculosis is rarely found in patients suffering with organic disease of the heart. Reasoning from this, it has been suggested that if a result can be produced artificially, as found in organic disease of the heart (venous engorgement of some part), we ought to be able to banish tuberculosis. Senn says the utility of this has been questioned very much indeed. It is hardly practical, as subjecting a part to venous engorgement deprives it of arterial blood rich in nutriment, and in all probability might lead to a degeneration of that part.

THE ophalmometer, for deteriming astigmatism, is almost wholly laid to one side.

The Treatment of Uræmia.

Therapeutic Gazette.

In the *New York Medical Record* for March 17, 1894, Dr. Beverly Robinson contributes a valuable paper upon this topic, in which he reviews the various therapeutic resources for the combatting of this condition.

After mentioning the value of cardiac stimulants, of diaphoretics, and of the external application of heat, he strongly urges the employment of venesection during the presence of convulsions or when they are imminent, and states that these manifestations will sometimes disappear even while the abstraction of blood is going on. In strong, robust patients he suggests the withdrawal of from twelve to twenty ounces of blood. He believes that many lives are saved by this measure, and cites one case in which the most favorable results followed this method of treatment.

The patient, who was found unconscious in the street, and who had a uræmic convulsion on the way to the hospital, was profusely bled to the extent of two pints. Immediately after the bleeding saline transfusion of two quarts of freshly made salt solution was performed, using the opening in the vein from which the blood had been drawn. The injection seemed to work like a charm, for no sooner was it terminated than the patient's limbs began to move, his face appeared normal, and twenty minutes after the transfusion the patient was able to speak clearly and to remember events which occurred before his attack. Dr. Robinson therefore believes that, wherever it is possible, copious venesection, followed by intravenous injections of saline solutions, or of hypodermoclysis, should be resorted to, and if these are not possible, that enteroclysis be used. Should the patient be apparently moribund and collapsed, he may require hypodermic stimulation with extract of coca, strychnine, or ether. The preparation of coca which he employs for this purpose is prepared in the following manner: To four ounces of the fluid extract of coca add one ounce of glycerin, heat upon a water-bath until all alcohol has been driven off, and then add sufficient water to make the product measure two fluid ounces. For the relief of the convulsions, before venesection can be resorted to, chloroform may be employed. The use of pilocarpine for the production of sweat he regards with suspicion.

In the discussion of Dr. Robinson's paper, Dr. Peabody strongly recommended urethane for the treatment of the convulsions. The drug is to be given by subcutaneous injection, and as it is a harmless remedy and easily absorbed and quite unirritating and painless, he thinks it should be frequently employed. His statement was corroborated by Dr. Kinnicut, who advises that the drug be given in very large doses, amounting to three or four hundred grains in twenty-four hours. Dr. Kinnicut thought that urethane would control almost all forms of convulsions after other remedies had failed.

IT is with pleasure we make mention of the Rush Medical College class book for 1894. It is a book of nearly 300 pages, bound in cloth and gilt, elegantly finished in the highest style of the printers' art. Fully illustrated, with portraits of the faculty, present and past. History of the college from ante-bellum days to the present; also a brief history of the Presbyterian College, which is part and parcel of the Rush. It contains the classes and graduates for some years back, with a great many of their photographs and biographies. College clubs, societies, fraternal and literary, receive prominent mention. The latter half of the book is replete with the ludicrous side of medicine such as only can drive the blues away. No Rush graduate should be without the book—he will enjoy it and cannot help but feel immensely proud of this work. It is gotten up by the middle class; a large number of the engravings have been made by a member of the class and show artistic talent. The book can be had from Dr. W. H. Lewis, 319 Hermitage avenue, Chicago.

Sulfonal as a Sleep Producer.

In a discussion which recently took place before the Therapeutical Society of Paris on the comparative value of hypnotics, Dr. Bardet stated that Sulfonal produced sleep without anæsthesia and had the advantage over chloral of not disturbing the digestive organs. As a hypnotic in the insomnia of the insane this remedy has gained a high reputation. In an article on the care and treatment of the insane, Dr. Wilson (*Virginia Medical Monthly*) says: "Sulfonal is a good hypnotic in doses of from 10 to 20 grains; indeed, as high as 30 grains is sometimes given, but the maximum doses of these remedies should not be administered at the commencement. Sulfonal has the advantage of not being disagreeable to take, and can be given with the food. It is now largely used." Dr. Clevenger says that in treating the insane Sulfonal has the advantage of solubility in hot tea and coffee, and can therefore be given without the patient's knowledge. Recently Dr. Louis Fischer (*Medical Record*, February 17, 1894) has called attention to the value of Sulfonal in the treatment of the opium habit in children. He reports twenty-two cases of chronic opium poisoning in children to whom this drug had been administered for some acute disorder, usually of diarrhœal character, and its use continued by mother or nurse for purposes of allaying restlessness and irritability. In the sudden or gradual weaning from opium Sulfonal proved an admirable remedy for promoting sleep and overcoming restlessness, and as these cases are not infrequent Dr. Fischer's experience deserves careful consideration.

Diuretic Action of Cascara Sagrada.

Mr. Milnes Hey (Hornsey Lane, N.) writes to the *British Medical Journal:* "Some little time ago I noticed after taking some cascara sagrada increased frequency of micturition. I could then find no cause for this. Shortly after I again took this drug, and again noticed the same effect. As I could find no reference to its action as a diuretic, I began to watch its actions on any of my patients who might be taking it, and in the majority of cases I found it to act as a diuretic, a few only not noticing any difference. In one case, a Mr. D. H., the effect was marked, as the patient himself complained of the number of times during the day he was obliged to urinate. I analyzed his urine and found it to be quite healthy. On stopping the cascara he ceased to be troubled. One of my medical brethren told me that he also had noticed this same effect of the drug upon himself. The cascara sagrada that I use, and have always used, is the liquid extract of Parke, Davis & Co. I should be interested to hear if this diuretic action has been observed by others."

IF you have any smallpox or typhoid germs, any pestiferous garbage or other rank and stinking refuse, give it to the Illinois Central for deposit in the typhoid shores along the lake shore. — *Evening News.*

Chicago people are apt students, following hard in the footsteps of Prof. Senn.

DR. BEARD, of Chicago, has modified the Hotz operation for entropion as follows: (1) He uses a mucous graft along the free border of the edge of the lid between the cartilage and conjunctiva. (2) Does not remove any of the integument covering the lid. (3) Does not separate the ciliary margin of the flap from the cartilage, but carries the dissection down to the cilia bulbs. (4) In tying the sutures, of which he uses four two six, he puts the upper edge of the lower flap well up under the upper flap, tucking it in and tying it down firmly with the suture. (5) An incision ½ to ¾ of an inch longer than the palpebral fissure is made. The graft is the last step in the operation.

Normal Liquid Cannabis Indica in Unpleasant Dreams.

Dr. R. T. Edes, in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, especially recommends *Cannibis Indica* for the relief of unpleasant dreams, transforming them into those of a more agreeable character.

"The drug should not be given in socalled 'full doses,' that is, not sufficiently large to produce effects obvious to anyone but the patient, and he hardly should be sure of it. For example, if experiments have shown that ten drops of the preparation to be used gives rise, in the average person, to some excitement, rapid talking, laughter, double consciousness, etc., let the dose for the purpose we are considering be, say, six or seven. I have found that a very convenient plan of administration, admitting of varying the dosage, is an alcoholic extract, which may then be dropped in the desired quantity upon a spoonful of granulated sugar.

"I have frequently had occasion to prescribe *Cannabis Indica*, and have found Parke, Davis & Co.'s Normal Liquid always efficient in doses of ten to forty minims. It would undoubtedly give satisfaction in cases like the above mentioned, where the dreams are known to be habitual and not due to the 'traditional mince pie,' or disordered digestion."

A REAL baby incubator can be seen at the Post Graduate Medical School. Statistics show that 70 per cent. of the incubated babies live, and that in all probability 50 per cent. of these would have died had it not been for the incubator. The baby need not be lifted from the "nest" until he becomes strong enough to remove with safety. The incubator is set upon bicycle wheels, so that it can be moved about whenever desired. The fresh air is heated by passing between two strata of hot water, and is kept in motion by a fan. The nest is shaped like a coffin, although its mission is to keep babies out of coffins. A thermometer keeps the attendant constantly informed as to the temperature. By an ingenious device the increase or decrease in weight of the little fellow is carefully noted, so that it may be known whether he is receiving the proper food and care. The top of the case is covered with glass. A tube leading into the interior supplies the infant with plenty of oxygen. Prematurely born babies and sickly ones are the ones cared for.

TOTTIE (aged 5): I wonder why babies are always born in de night time?

Lottie (aged 7, a little wiser,): Don't you know? It's 'cos the angels wants to make sure of finding their mothers at home.

A SOLUTION of 1-500 bichloride solution is being used in chronic granular lids. Great care is used to keep it off the cornea; the excess is washed off with tepid water.

A PROMINENT pathologist, being asked the definition of staphyloraphy, answered that it was infection of the body by staphylococci.—*The Pulse.*

MAY not sympathetic ophthalmia be caused by an interference with the circulation (lymphatic or vascular), diminished or increased?

THE subcutaneous injection of antipyrine for optic nerve atrophy is meeting with some success in the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary.

A PROMINENT surgeon of Chicago says that surgeons of to-day are more afraid of blood than of nerves. It should be the other way.